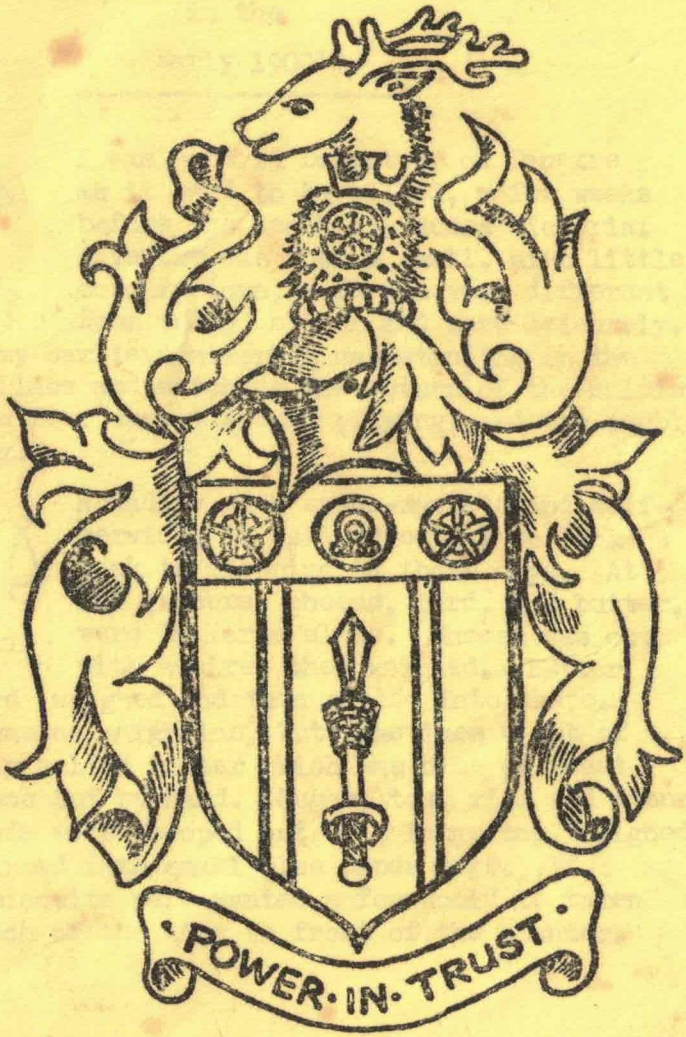
MEMORIES OF DAVENTRY

IN THE EARLY 1900's



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Early 1900's.

I was born in Daventry, or Danetre as it used to be called, a few weeks before the death of Queen Victoria. Daventry was then a small, quiet little country town. Life was very different from today, slower and more leisurely. One of my earliest memories was standing in the Market Place and watching the return of the soldiers from the Boer War, the band playing, and the people cheering.

Nowadays with super-markets and self-service, it is interesting to look back to shopping in those days. At the grocers, cheese, lard, and butter, were in large slabs. Cheese was cut with a wire, then weighed. Butter and lard weighed and then patted into shape. There was no margarine, but sometimes a tub of slightly salted butter which was nice on toast. Bacon was cut by hand. Sugar, tea, rice and other dry goods were scooped out of a large bag, weighed, then tipped into small blue paper bags. If mixed biscuits were wanted a few would be taken from each of the tins in front of the counter.

Very few goods were sold in tins, salmon and sardines were, but most goods would be served from bulk. The order complete, the assistant would then write out the items on a bill and add them up, - no calculators or cash registers. Fortunately, most of the shops provided a chair or two for customers.

Food also seemed much more interesting. People would make delicious soup in the winter. Meat was very much cheaper, a good sized joint of beef could be bought for about 5/-. Chops were 6d each and stewing steak 6d a lb. Fish was cheap, herrings cost about 1d or 2d each. Eggs in the spring would be 15 for 1/-. I think bread was 2½d a loaf. At break at school we could buy cakes for ½d each, or more fancy ones for 1d. Oranges at Christmas were seven or fourteen for 1/-. Milk was inexpensive too. It was brought round in a large churn in a trap. The milkman would fill his bucket from the churn and measure the quantity required into peoples jugs.

Most people either made their own clothes or employed a dressmaker. There were sewing machines, some worked by hand, some treadle. In the drapers the assistant would climb up steps and put rolls of material on the counter. The choice made, the unwanted rolls were replaced, the chosen material measured and packed, and a bill written out. People didn't hurry - there was plenty of time for a chat. A lot of knitting and crochet was also done.

Fashions were very different then. Women wore a lot of dark clothes, long skirts, narrow waists, and a bunch of gathering at the top of the sleeves. Old ladies often had black capes trimmed with sequins, black bonnets with wide black ribbon tied under the chin, and black gloves. Ladies wore heavily boned corsets - must have been very uncomfortable. Hats were large and heavily trimmed with ribbon, flowers, and fruit. They also wore watches on chains which they tucked into their waist belts. Cosmetics were not used as much as they are today.

Babies were dressed in long flannel gowns, then long white gowns, shawls and bonnets, for several months until they were 'shortened' into little dresses and petticoats. Little boys wore dresses until they were about three when their curls were cut off, and they were breeched. Then they had little sailor suits with blue collars, or little jerseys with short trousers and socks. Older boys wore a coat and short or long trousers. Some wore Norfolk jackets which were longer and had a belt. They also wore hard celluloid collars which could be sponged clean, boots, and socks or black stockings. Little children wore socks but schoolgirls wore long black woollen stockings, and garters. Girls wore pinafores to school, white and mostly plain, and pretty ones on Sundays with lace or embroidery, and sometimes pink or blue ribnon.

When small we had tiny buttoned boots to wear. Often there would be a frantic search in the morning for a buttonhook. Children were often overdressed. School girls, for instance, wore a vest, chemise, liberty bodice with buttons on, flannel petticoat, white petticoat with lace or embroidery, dress and cardigan, and long black stockings.

Clothes worn in the week were never worn on Sundays. Sunday had special clothes, and no one would dream of going to church without being "dressed up". Shoes would be polished on Saturday evenings, girls hair washed and put in rags for curls, or plaited. On Sunday Father wore his best suit complete with waistcoat, watch and chain, and Mother her best dress or costume, and large decorated hat. Women often had their hair in a coil on top of the head. They didn't visit hairdressers as much as they do today. Then, Sunday over, the best clothes were brushed and put away until the next Sunday, or for a very special occasion.

Cooking took up a lot of time. Most people made their own cakes, jams and preserves, and many baked their own bread also. There would be a coal fire range in the kitchen. Sometimes the fire would be temperamental and the oven wouldn't be hot enough, or too hot and burn the cakes. This was blamed on the direction of the wind!!!! Later on there were some gas cookers. Coal was plentiful and a ton could be bought for less than 1cwt.now. The coal cart would draw up. The man would lift a grating outside and tip the coal down into the cellar.

One Sunday morning I was out with my father when I saw some people coming along carrying something covered with a cloth. I asked him what they were doing, and he said some houses had no ovens, or didn't want to use them, so they took the joint and the Yorkshire pudding to the bakehouse at the top of London Road, and fetched it later when it was cooked. They also took cakes to be baked.

Cleaning was hard work. Most houses had gas lights or used oil lamps. Floors were scrubbed by hand, brass work polished, grates black-leaded and polished, lamps cleaned and refilled, coal brought up from the cellar, etc. Knives were polished on an emery board, and spoons and forks cleaned with polish.

Washing day was another busy day. The copper was filled with water and the fire laid the evening before. The fire would be lit early next morning, and then after breakfast, when the water was hot, the clothes would be sorted and the best articles put into boil. Most families had some help on washing days. There were only small packets of Hudson's soap powder, yellow soap cut off a long bar, or soda to use. Many houses had no taps, only a pump. The mangle was a huge affair, thick heavy wooden rollers, and a large iron handle to turn. The clothes were mangled after boiling, rinsed, mangled, blued (for white articles) and again mangled. Then the collars etc. had to be starched, and the woollens washed by hand. Some people used 'dolly Tubs' and some had scrubbing boards.

Next day was ironing day. The clothes were 'damped' (sprinkled with water and rolled up). The fire would be made up and when it was red the heavy irons would be heated. Most of the clothes were ironed, then aired, and put away. Fireguards were used where there were children, otherwise there was a fender. Very often the women would cut up old woollen clothes into strips and peg theminto sacking to make a kitchen rug. The back would then be glued and lined. Some of these rugs were very pretty and warm.

Of course in those days there was no radio or T.V. and people had to make their own amusements. Where there was a piano songs and music were enjoyed. Some had gramophones, which usually made a terrible noise, and had large horns. My father had a 'Magic Lantern' . He would hang a white sheet on the wall, tur n the lamp out, and show the pictures to the children. Occasionally he would put a plate in 'upside down' much to their delight. He also had a little steam engine and put hot cinders in to work it, but no one was allowed to touch it, only father.

The older children played hockey and football in the winter, and sometimes there would be skating on the reservoir. I was taken once to see the skating. It was bitterly cold, but we had little fur muffs lined with warm material, and a silk cord to go over the head. They kept our hands nice and warm. Whist drives and dances were very popular too. The waltz was danced, also veleta, polka, lancers, etc.

In the summer tennis and cricket were played, and cycling also was much enjoyed. Picnics were very popular. Badby Woods at Whitsun to pick bluebells was eagerly looked forward to. Mother would prepare a basket of cakes and sandwiches and we had lemonade to drink. - there were no flasks to keep tea hot. We would all walk to Badby Woods, even the little ones. Another favourite outing was to go along New St. and into the Recreation ground, walk along the top path and climb over the stile in the corner into what we called the Second Rec. At the bottom of this field there was a stream. We crossed this and went on until we came to the railway bridge, up the steps, and hopefully waited on top for a train to come puffing along, then down the other side and on up to Borough Hill. Here we would have our picnic, play games, pick wild flowers, and thoroughly enjoy ourselves. We were always told that King Charles hid from the soldiers in a tree on Borough Hill. There were no masts then, only a water tower. There was a path down to London Rd. but we always voted to go back over the railway bridge and the stream. Occasionally, for a change, we would walk up Newnham Hill and picnic at the top. We always enjoyed family outings in those days, but of course we didn't have all the amusements the children have today.

At times the school would give a party for the children. One day we all had to meet in the Assembly Room in New Street. We had tea, and watched some pictures, (silent ones). There were also comedians and one man sang 'When Father papered the parlour'. The children joined in, and it was heard being yelled in the streets for weeks later.

One summer, about 1911 or 1912, Mr. Murland of Badby House was Mayor of Daventry. He invited all the schools to Badby House and Park for the afternoon. It was a lovely day. There were games, swings, races etc. We all had to sit in our clases on the grass for tea, and teachers and friends waited on us.
Mrs. Murland invited the catholic children there every summer, and they would be taken in a horse drawn brake.

In the summer time older children played tennis, cricket, rounders, and the usual ball games. The roads were very quiet, only an occasional bike or trap. In spring and summer the boys would kick a ball to school along New St. or play marbles, whip tops, bowl hoops &c. all along the street. Skipping was the most popular game with the girls. They would have a long rope across the road and skip to school. Hop scotch also was popular.

We were brought up more strictly in those days. If one of the mistresses at the Grammar School saw a pupil with out a hat or gloves there would be marks lost, or detention. When a visitor, the Rector or anyone, went to the school all the classes would stand up. When I was about seven or eight I learned to knit. Being very keen I brought it out to do one Sunday - I was properly in disgrace.

There were various days to look forward to during the year. One was Empire Day, 24th May. The children would all assemble in the boys school. The girls wore summer dresses and have buttonholes of daisies. The little ones had crowns of daisies. A large map hung on the wall and we were told that the parts coloured red all belonged to England, it was 'Our Empire'. The Rector would be there, the Mayor and Mayoress, and other dignitaries. Patriotic songs were sung, speeches made, then the rest of the day was a holiday.

There were also school concerts. On the evening before one in April 1910, the first aeroplane to be seen in Daventry, was expected to fly over Borough Hill. Crowds of people walked up Borough Hill to see the French airman, Paulhan, fly over on his way to Manchester. Actually no plane was seen, and they all came back disappointed. Next morning it was reported that he had arrived in Manchester.

The next day, 28th April, the school concert was held. Also it was the wedding day of a Daventry solicitor, Mr. Wright, who was to marry the sister of his partner, (Mr. Roche). It was to be a big affair, as they were well known. It started to rain in the morning and poured heavily all day. They just ran from the church to the cars. Mr. & Mrs. Wright went to live at a house called 'Crow's Nest' in Badby Road. This house is now the Evelyn Wright Home.

The School Concert was held in the evening in the Assembly Hall in New St. It was very successful and the Hall was packed on all three evenings. In one event the boys and girls were all dressed as pierrots, and a poem 'Little Orphant Annie' was recited.

Another event looked forward to was the annual Mop on the Market Place. I think it was held on the first Wednesday in October. There was the usual fun of the fair, roundabouts, stalls, swings, games, cakewalk, etc. The Mop also visited the town the following Wednesday, but this was much quieter. We were told it it used to be the day people were hired for the next twelve months. One year in addition to the usual mop, a large tent was erected on the square with a stage at the front where there was music and dancing. I think there was a variety show inside, but I was told I was too young to go and could go when I was older - they didn't come again.

In 1913 manoeuvres were held near Daventry, and King George and Queen Mary were to drive through the town. A crowd collected at the top of London Rd. and we waited for a long time. Mother said she had to go and I went with her. We walked along New St. and were very nearly to the Market Place when some motorcycles and a car came along. Mother said 'It's the King and Queen'. We waved to them and they waved back. We were the only two people in the road.

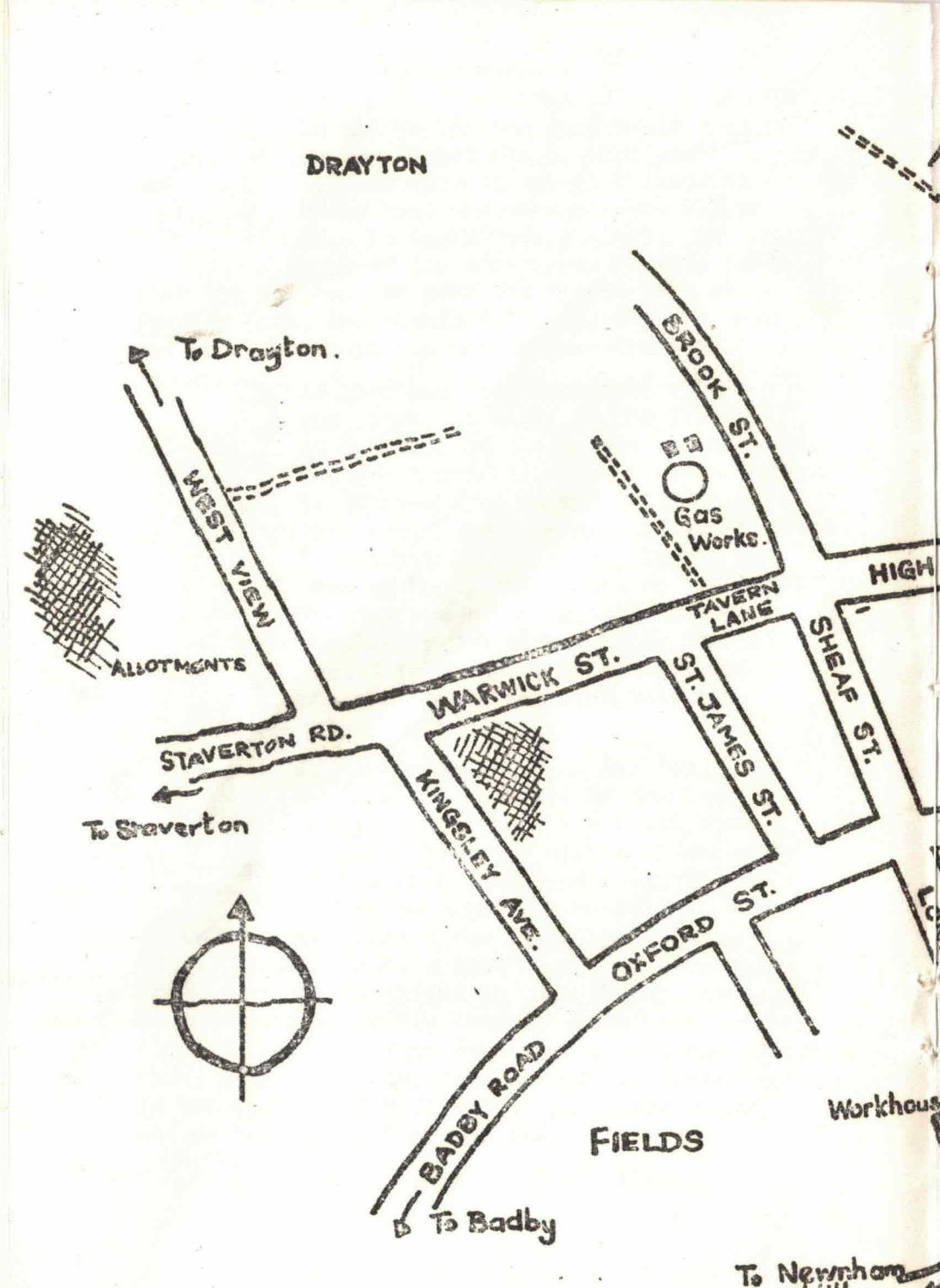
Another day I well remember. King Edward VII had died in 1910, and King George V.was crowned in 1911. A large party was arranged for all the school children. Tables and forms were put all down High St.and business people and others contributed to the tea. All went well, the children were all seated and starting tea when suddenly there was a heavy. thundery shower. We ran for shelter as we were all in summer clothes. The rain was so heavy it washed the cakes off the plates and off the tables. It really was 'washed off'. We managed to get to some friends who lived near, and had tea with them, but we were all very disappointed.

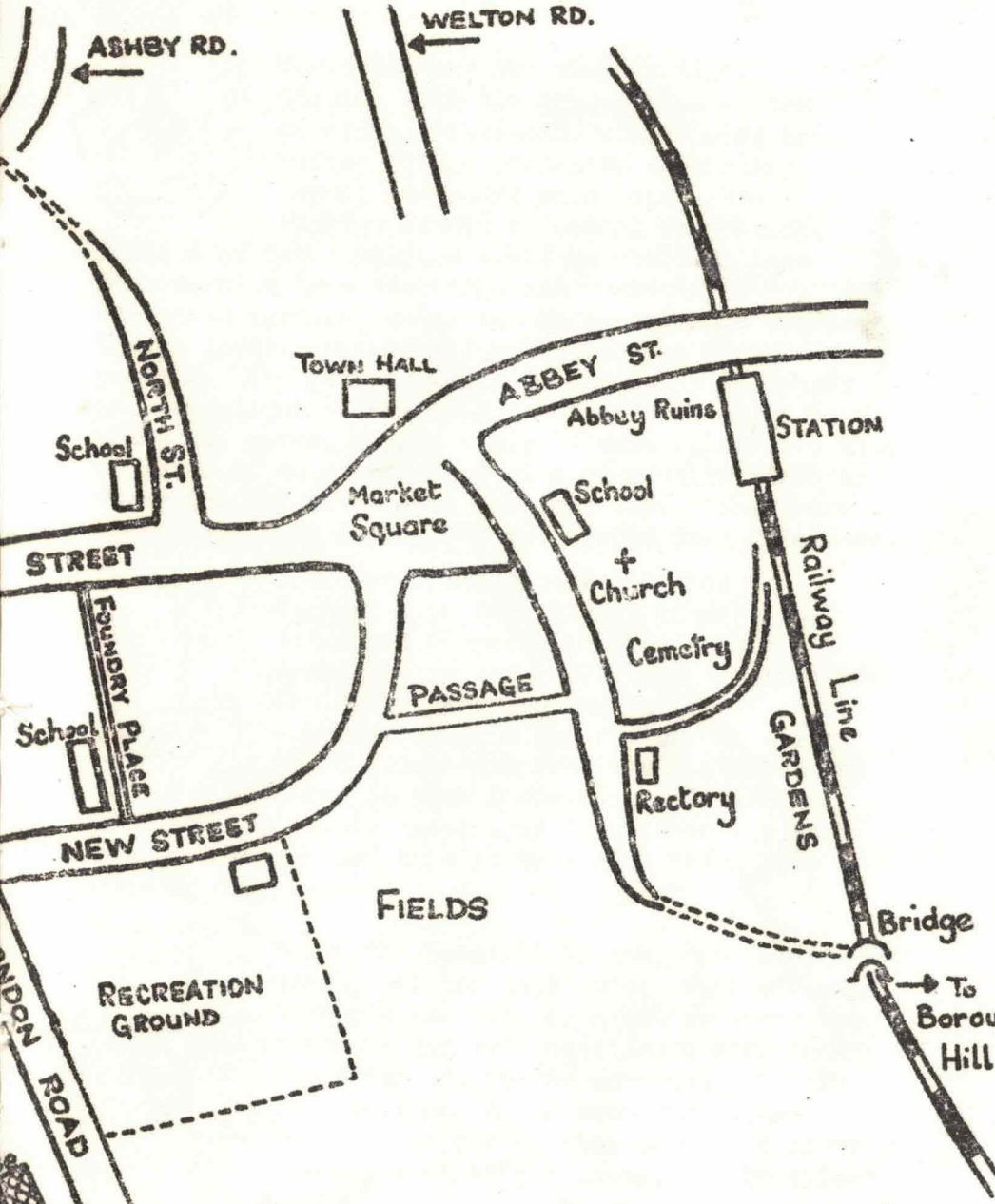
Sometimes in the summer a man would come round with a barrel organ and a little monkey in a red coat. The monkey would collect the pennies while the man turned the organ. We all loved the little monkey, he looked such a pathetic little thing. One year instead of the monkey, there was a large brown bear. He was on a chain, but we didn't venture too close. One year the barrel organ and the monkey were going round at mid-day. Of course several children stopped to see it and consequently were all late getting back to school. At the Foundry Place school the master lined them all up down the school room and caned every one for being late. I don't think they minded they had had their fun.

In the winter the Hunt would meet on the Market Place. One winter's day, 1908 or 1909 I think, I stood in Badby Road and watched them all go by. It was a lovely sight. An hour or two afterwards we were told that the fox had run over the frozen lake at Fawsley Park, the hounds followed, the ice gave way and several of the hounds were drowned.

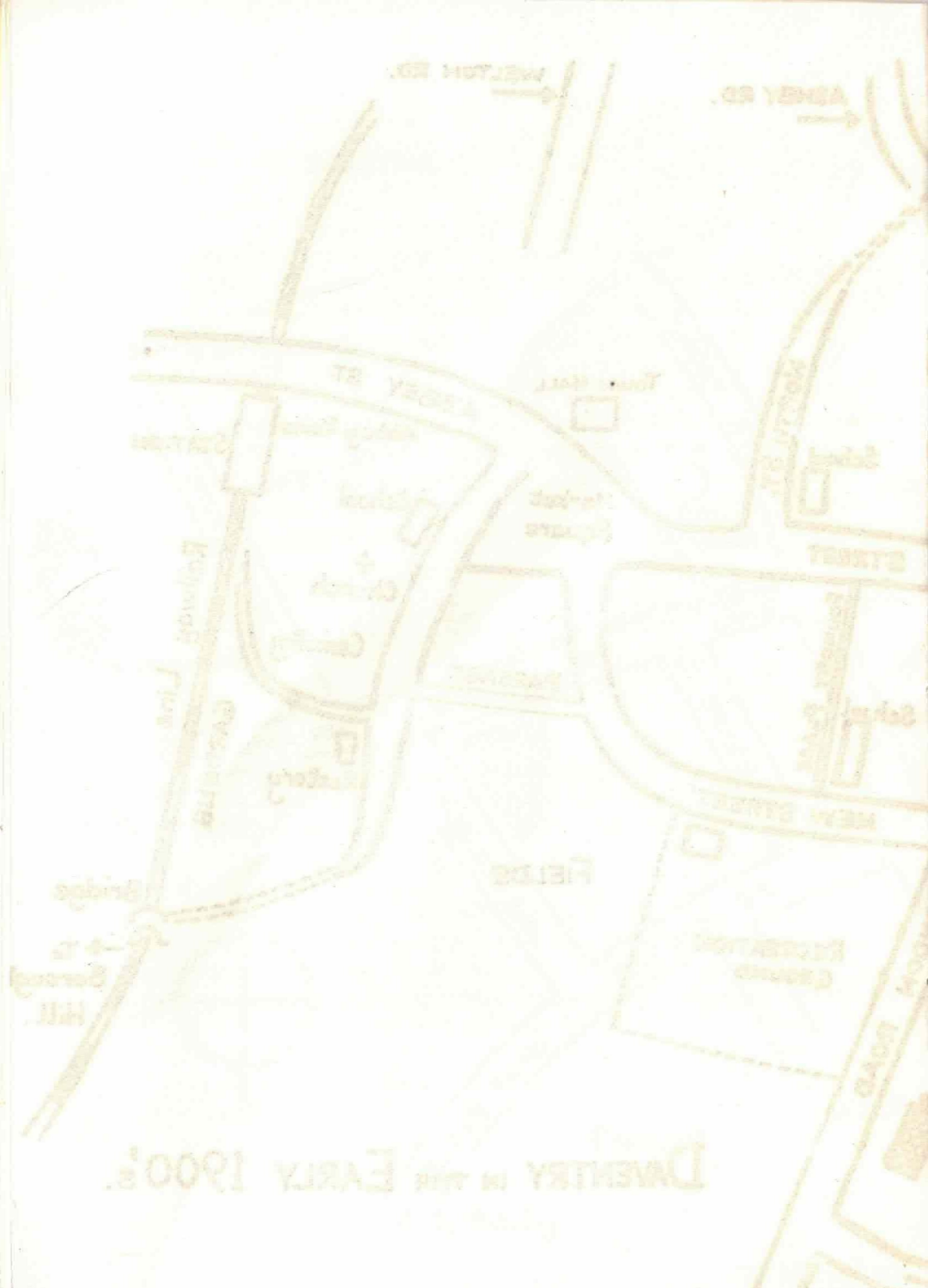
Another sad event was when a bull got loose one night in the fields at the back of the houses in Badby Rd. and gored and killed two horses there. We often played in those fields. They were farmed by Mr.Haynes. We loved to watch them haymaking. It was all done by hand, there were no tractors. The hay was turned with forks, and when ready was picked up by forks, loaded imto carts, then taken and unloaded on to the rick that was being built.

Of course we kept the holiday customs. On Good Friday morning, early, the baker's boy would come round on his bike with a large basket on the front, full of newly-baked hot cross buns. He would call out 'Hot-Cross Buns, Hot-Cross Buns, one a penny two a penny, Hot-Cross Buns'. We had warm Hot Cross Buns for breakfast on Good Friday mornings. On Palm Sunday, or Fig Sunday, there were always figs. On Easter Sunday eggs were boiled and coloured blue, pink or yellow. We also had chocolate eggs. In the winter the Muffin Man would come round and we toasted muffins for tea.


DRAYTON
To Drayton.
WEST VIEW
BROOK ST.
Gas Works.
HIGH
ALLOTMENTS
TAVERN LANE
SHEAF ST.
WARWICK ST.
ST. JAMES ST.
STAVERTON RD.
To Staverton
KINGSLEY AVE.
OXFORD ST.
BADBY ROAD
FIELDS
To Badby
To Newnham



DAVENTRY IN THE EARLY 1900's.



Christmas was the busiest time. Helping with the preparation of the puddings, mincemeat, etc. Buying and hiding little presents, decorating school and house with holly, etc. Singing carols at school and church. Parties of carol singers would go round on Xmas Eve. Opening Xmas stockings and presents on Christmas morning, going to church and more carols, then a lovely Christmas dinner with the Christmas pudding. The pudding would be covered with brandy and set alight - that made the dinner. Then we had crackers, games, songs, etc. We were allowed to stay up later if we wished, but we were usually tired and ready for bed after such a lovely day. There were also parties on Boxing Day and visits from relations.

There were three Boot and Shoe factories in Daventry in those days, Stead and Simpsons in Church Walk, Rodhouses in Oxford St. and Mountain and Daniels in Warwick St. A lot of people were employed in the factories. Women would fetch work from the factories and take it home to do. Some of them had machines that would machine leather. When the work was done they would take it back and bring more home to do.

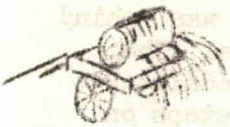
Where the hospital is now, down London Rd. used to be the workhouse. We would see the poor men and women making their way there in the evenings, and coming back up London Rd. in the mornings. We were told they had to do some work like chopping wood etc. then they were given a meal, a night's lodging, and breakfast.

They could be seen coming up in the mornings, some looking tired, some ragged, old and poor, and many with a few things tied up, usually in a red spotted handkerchief. The local name for the workhouse was 'The Spike'. Quite a few people would come to the houses begging for money and food. There was no dole, social security, or anything like that.

In 1908 there was an election. A car came to fetch my grandfather to vote and he took me with him. Very few cars had been seen in Daventry then. I was very thrilled and never forgot my first car ride. There were only two main parties then, Conservatives and Liberals. I think the rosettes were blue and yellow. A crowd of children wearing yellow ribbons would gather on one side of New St. and blue ones on the opposite side. They would sing and shout all the way to school, Vote for..... ..... is no good. Vote for ..... They thought it was great fun. I think Fitzroy got in then.

In 1909 Old Age Pensions came in. We knew an old lady who went to the Post Office in Sheaf St. to draw her first pension of 5/-. She was dressed in black, black cape trimmed with sequins, black bonnet with wide black ribbon tied under her chin, and black gloves. After drawing her pension she crossed the road to Kightley's the Bakers, and bought seven

cakes for 3d brought them to our house, and we celebrated her first pension with a cup of tea and a rock cake. 5/- was a lot to poor people then.



One thing that always fascinated me as a child was the water cart. On hot days in the summer this cart would be driven down Sheaf St. and up High Street spraying water on the dusty roads. After it had passed the air always seemed lovely and fresh again.

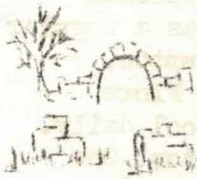
Daventry also had a fire engine. We children were always very interested in it. It was kept at the Moot Hall on Market Place. When a call came through for help someone would cycle round calling the firemen from home or work. They would get their boots etc. and cycle or run to the Moot Hall, where the fire engine would be waiting. This was horse drawn and was soon off. Several of the fires were chimney fires, so perhaps speed wasn't so important.

There were four schools in Daventry in the early years. The Council School in Foundry Place- Headmaster Mr. Billingham, and later Mr.Allwood. There was one large room for three or four classes with the Head's desk in the centre. There was also another class-room and an infants room. At break the children played in Foundry Place.

The Abbey Schools were off the Market Place. There was a boys section, Headmaster Mr. Hammond, Assistant Mr. Mapley, probably still remembered by some people today. The girls section was behind the boys. Headmistress Miss Gallimore. The infants were on the ground floor, Headmistress Miss Smith. The boys went up stone steps on the left, and the girls up stairs on the right. Each section had one large room and one class room with the Head's desk in the centre. In winter there was a fire in the grate in the centre, with a large guard. Windows were high up, too high to look out of.

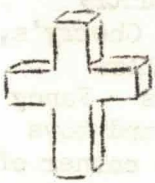
Then there was the Grammar School, (Wardens Lodge) down North Street. Mr. Priestley was Headmaster. There were a few boarders, and teachers lived at a house called 'Ivy Dene' in Sheaf St. The Grammar School playing fields were further down North St. the boys side first, and the girls side over the brook. Speech Days and Prizegivings were held in the Assembly Hall in New St. There would be plays, songs and speeches.

Children started in the Infants School about five years old, and usually stayed in the same school until they left at thirteen or fourteen. There were no primary and comprehensive schools then. There was also a small private school at the top of Sheaf St. called Miss Callier's School.

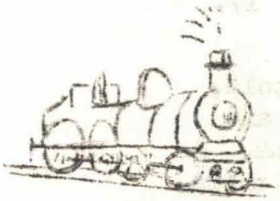


At the back of the Abbey Schools, between the school buildings and Abbey St. were the Abbey ruins. A caretaker and his wife lived there. These ruins were the remains of an old monastery dedicated to St.Augustine. We were told there used to be an underground passage from the monastery to Borough Hill, but it may not have been true. The ruins were demolished about 1912to make room for the new school built there.

Next to the Abbey Schools was the Parish Church and churchyard. Further along Church Walk was an entry to the churchyard down a lovely avenue of trees. At the end of the avenue there was a seat round the tree with a view of the station and Borough Hill. From that seat we would watch the trains steam in and out again. To the right of this seat was a little gate to a path that was a short cut to the station, and to the right of the path were the Abbey School boys gardens. The Rectory was on the right at the beginning of the Avenue.



Apart from the Parish Church there was a chapel in New Street, a Catholic Church in London Road, a chapel in Sheaf St. and a church and school in St.James St. The Police Station was in New Street. The Town Hall or Moot Hall, as it was called was on the Market Place near the top of Abbey Street.



Daventry Station was at the bottom end of Abbey St. along a small approach road, on the right. There was a regular service to Weedon and Northampton, and children from Weedon and Flore travelled to the Grammar School daily. The other side of the line led to Braunston. One could leave the train at Braunston and walk to Willoughby Station and get a train to Rugby. There were no buses then. There were railway bridges over Norton Rd. and Welton Rd.

The Post Office was in Sheaf St. There were two deliveries a day and one on Sundays. The postage on letters was one penny, and unsealed letters and postcards one halfpenny. Telephones were scarce. I seem to remember they had to be wound up before asking for the number.

Some of the old shops were very interesting. Standing at the top of London Rd. and looking down Sheaf St. towards Brook St. on the left was The Sheaf Hotel run by a Belgian lady, Mrs.Cook. The large yard would be full of traps and carriages as people came in from the country to shop. Then, on the left, we came to Cherry's, a popular grocery store. Further down there was a public house, a butchers, Hensmans - Fancy goods and stationers, Colletts - mens and boys outfitters, followed by a Vet's, to the corner of Tavern Lane.

Going back to outside the Sheaf Hotel, on the right hand side was Miss Callier's school, a chapel, 'Ivy Dene' used by the Grammar School, Cotterills - Lamps, Treadgold's - greengrocers, Whites - confectioners, Robinsons - fish shop, Post Office , Chowns - printers, more shops, Braggins - fish, and on the corner with High St. was Checkley's - the butchers.

Turning the corner on the right hand side of High St. we came to Willoughby's Shoe shop, the entrance to Foundry PlaCE, AND New St. then Harrisons, the chemists. Here there were always large bottles of coloured liquid in the window, and some leeches in a container in the centre. After that we passed Law's - the grocers, Dr. Farrison's - a stone house, Co-op, Birds - Greengrocers, The Golden Key - Ironmongers, Dr. Oldacres - another old stone house, Harris - Newsagants, Foyles cake shop, Johnsons - the drapers, and the last shop was Leigh's - the bakers. Here there were always lots of lovely cakes, and along the front of the counter in the shop were glass cases containing most delicious looking chocolates. The Peacock Hotel was on the corner with New St.

Going up the left hand side of High St. from Brook St. there was a cycle shop,on the corner , Farmers - the Drapers, Colletts - China and Glass, a music shop, the Bear Inn, the Farmers Shop,- corn and meal, Photographers, Hawksworth - the chemists, a large stone house, Vogts - Jewellers, then the entrance to North St. Past North St. there were Banks, then Market Square with the Moot Hall or Town Hall on the left. Continuing down Abbay St. were houses on the left, and on the right the Abbey wall and churchyard wall. Leaving Norton Rd. on the left and bearing right, we came to the station.

Turning to the left along New St. were houses, the passage to the shoe factory, Grammar School Lab.(later used as a church) houses, a chapel entrance to the Recreation Ground, Police Station, Wright's - decorators, Holland and Marks,and the top of London Rd. Going back to the Peacock and Market Sq.along New St.on the right from the Peacock Hotel, the yard of which was full of traps and carriages, past houses to the Assembly Rooms, and the entrance to Foundry Place. At the corner of Foundry Place was a tiny little shop called Starmers where children could spend a farthing or a halfpenny when they came our of school. Then past Foundry Place to the corner of Sheaf St.again.

Along Foundry Place the school was on the left. Further along on the right were some cottages and gardens, then the passage to High St.

Going back to the corner of New St.snd Sheaf St. London Rd. was down to the left. Past a row of tiny cottages on the left was the gate to the Rec. and a few houses further on. On the right hand side going down was a bakery on the corner, a few houses, a public house, a small cottage in a garden, the Catholic Presbytery with St.Mark's church at the rear, then allotments to the workhouse.

Back to the corner of London Rd.and Oxford St. we passed a blacksmiths on the left, then a little sweet shop called Towers where a little lady used to make lots of toffee. She would pour the toffee into flat tins and when cold would break it up with a very tiny hammer. She would give a large bag for 1d.and it was lovely toffee. After that we passed

the coachbuilders, Dr. Rafferty's house, a small shop, and more houses to Ashworth's Lane. Further were three more rows of houses, and gates to fields. At the end of the last row of houses was later the by-pass. There was a yard at the back of the Sheaf Hotel on the right of Oxford St. where cattle were sold. Before that the cattle market was held on the Market Square. Passing some small houses we came to St.James St. then a shop and more houses to Rodhouse's Shoe Factory, then larger houses to Kingsley Avenue. Crossing over were a few larger houses, Grasby's the Vets. 'Crows Nest' and a few more,then fields all the way to Badby House.

Returning to Kingsley Avenue. At the beginning of the century this was all allotments, with a little cottage in the centre. The cottage was demolished about 1908 or 1909 and a road made through from Badby Road to Staverton Road. called Kingsley Avenue. There were still allotments on either side,but later a few houses were built on the left at Staverton Road end.

St.James Street ran from Oxford St.to Warwick St. at the end of Tavern Lane. James St. was mostly houses with a church and a school.

The left hand side of Warwick St.and Staverton Rd. was mostly houses as far as Kingsley Avenue,then more houses and fields. On the right hand side past Tavern Lane was a yard of machinery,a path leading to Drayton, then more houses until Mountain & Daniels shoe factory which was set back. A few more houses then West View,a new road, was built on the right, at the end of which was a path to Drayton. Continuing up Staverton Rd.it was all allotments up the hill, then fields.

North St. led off from the left hand side of High St, going towards the Market Square. On the left were a few cottages, on the right Banks, then the Grammar School, (Wardens Lodge) and the school playing fields, with Braunston Rd. at the end.

Brook St. was straight on from the end of Sheaf St. There was a fish and chip shop on the corner with Tavern Lane, then small houses until the gas works at the bottom. The right hand side also had small houses until Haynes Farm and farmhouse at the end.

Street lamps were lit by a man with a long pole.

No doubt some young people today would think life was pretty dull in those days, no T.V. radio, Disco's etc. but I think we were much happier. There was more family life. Mother was always there when we came home from school. We went out together as a family for outings and holidays, and made our own amusements summer and winter. Very few houses were equipped with hot water or bathrooms, the copper was heated for baths. There were no freezers, fridges, electric cookers, etc. but as we had never had them they were not missed. There was more discipline both at home and at school, and there wasn't the vandalism of today.

No, I think I am glad I was a child in the early years of this century.

F.C.TOWNSEND.

Illustrations by P.A.DAVIS.

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